(a) Whether Government have a proposal to decrease the import items;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction during the last three years ; and

(c) the details of Government proposals for increasing the export from our country during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) As part of the economic liberalisation programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations, import restrictions are being removed. However, all imports are subject to applicable rates of Customs Duty, which should provide adequate protection to the domestic industry.

In the revised Exim Policy (RE-2000/1997-2002) notified on 31-3-2000, Government has taken various measures to promote exports. These include setting up Special Economic Zones, rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG) and Duty Exemption/Remission Schemes), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, de-centralisation in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of applications at some port offices etc. All these steps are aimed at making Indian exports competitive by reducing transaction costs and time.

Setting up of a Heavy Industry in Assam

2482. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to set up a heavy industry in the State of Assam under the Liberalisation Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Under the liberalised industrial policy setting up of industries including heavy industries depends upon the commercial judgment of the enterpreneurs which, in turn, is based on the initiative taken by the State Governments/UTs in the creation of conducive economic environment by way of providing basic infrastructural facilities and other incentives. Central Government supplements there efforts to the extent possible.

However, during the Ninth Plan period, there is no proposal for setting up any greenfield heavy industrial unit in the central Sector including the State of Assam.